

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed May 5, 2003 having a shortened statutory response period that expired on August 5, 2003. Accompanying this response is a petition for a two month extension of time. This response is filed within the extended period as October 5, 2003 was a Sunday. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 02-1818.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks below.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 6-16 and 92-95 are currently pending in the application. The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 7, 13 and 15 is noted with thanks and appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claims 6, 7 and 9 have also been amended. Claims 4-5 have been canceled. New claims 92-95 have been added. Applicants assert that these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and request early notice of the same. Support for these amendments is found in the application as follows:

claims 9 and 92-95, page 7 line 29 through page 8 line 10.

2. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,742,137 to Ono (Ono). Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ono in view of Japanese Patent Application JP-11228957A to Kunihiro et al. (Kunihiro). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as Ono and Kunihiro, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present claims.

The subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are therefore in a condition of allowance as Ono fails to teach or suggest the use of 1,2 polybutadiene blends wherein at least one 1,2 polybutadiene is syndiotactic and has a

low crystallinity. Kunihiro's disclosure of hindered amines discloses nothing regarding low crystallinity syndiotactic polybutadiene and thereby fails to remedy the deficiencies of Ono.

Claim 9 recites that upon exposure to radiation, the blend gel content is higher than the initial gel content. Claim 92 recites that the first and second 1,2 polybutadienes are crosslinked. Ono has no disclosure regarding the gel content of the polymer composition or whether the polymer composition is crosslinked. Rather, Ono suggests that the polymer composition is not crosslinked as the crystalline polymer formed by polymerization (*i.e.*, the 1,2 syndiotactic polybutadiene) and seed polymer merely "coexist" in the same particle. Ono, col. 9 lines 46-55. In fact, Ono discloses that the 1,2 syndiotactic polybutadiene polymerization product is dispersed in a rubbery polymer indicating that crosslinking has not occurred. Ono, col. 13 lines 46-52, col. 14 lines 60-64. Claims 9-16 and 92-95 are therefore novel in view of Ono and Kunihiro.

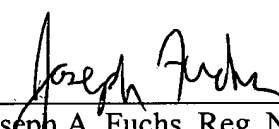
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 6-16 and 92-95 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notice thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
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BY



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